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DATE December 13, 1979

SUBJECT Acid Mine Drainage Meeting and Abandoned Mine Site Visit  
Joplin, Missouri

12 13 79

FROM James Mandia, Environmental Scientist  
Office of Research and Development

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SUPERFUND RECORDS

TO Charles H Hajinian  
Director, Office of Research and Development

On December 10, 1979, Dale Parke and I attended a meeting with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Ozark Gateway and IFRL, Cincinnati, personnel to discuss the acid mine drainage problem around Joplin, Missouri

We were very fortunate to have at the meeting two distinguished mining engineers, Daniel R Stewart and John Mattes, and a geologist consultant, Jan Tuppen, who were quite knowledgeable regarding the Joplin acid mine problems

I explained that the purpose of the meeting was to investigate the acid drainage problem caused by the "Gyp" piles. However, John Schondelmeyer of the Missouri DNR stated that the refuse piles from the zinc and lead mining also caused acid water problems and should be looked at along with the "Gyp" piles

Jack Hubbard of the Extraction Technology Branch, IERL Cincinnati, described the sampling and research studies planned for the acid drainage problem. The researchers wanted to characterize the material in the refuse piles and determine whether or not these piles could be classed as hazardous wastes or non-hazardous wastes. If the wastes were classed as hazardous, then control studies would have to be conducted to determine the best waste management practice. If the materials making up the refuse piles were found not to be hazardous, then studies determining the possibility of recovering valuable components according to the Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) would be initiated,

In either case, the studies would be conducted at the Test/Evaluation Facility in Cincinnati as described in a report (attached) published recently by ORD. The consultant Mining Engineers attending the meeting described the history and environmental problems associated with the Joplin mining industry.

The following day, the group at the meeting drove to the various refuse piles around Joplin and selected sampling sites to be visited later by the IFRL team.

Jack Hubbard believed that the Joplin acid mine drainage problem would become a major research project in FY 81. I stated that I hoped that IFRL would contract a local Joplin consulting firm for the project since these consultants have the expertise in zinc and lead mining technology.

The samples collected at this visit will be analyzed and studied with FY 80 funds. The results will probably be published as a report of a graduate degree thesis prepared by a University of Cincinnati student working in the Test/Evaluation facility.

A list of the meeting attendees is attached.

Copies To

Kathleen Q. Camin, Ph.D., Regional Administrator  
William W. Rice, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator  
Allan Abramson, Director, Water Division  
David Wagoner, Director, Air and Hazardous Materials

# LIST OF MEETING ATTENDEES

Ron Holland	OGCOG	Joplin, Missouri
Lynn Apel	EPA, IERL	Cincinnati, Ohio
Daniel R Stewart	Mining Engineer	Joplin, Missouri
Steve Bowser	OGCOG	Joplin, Missouri
Dale B Parke	EPA, Region VII	Kansas City, Missouri
John F Schondelmeyer	Mo DNR-DEQ	Jefferson City, Missouri
Jan Tupper	Martin & Assoc	Joplin, Missouri
John Mattes	Mattes Brothers	Joplin, Missouri
Jim Mandia	EPA, Region VII	Kansas City, Missouri
Jack Hubbard	EPA-IERL	Cincinnati, Ohio
Jim Acton	EPA-IERL	Cincinnati, Ohio